



SOIL AND WATER *Resources*

Volume 10 - Issue 5

September 2008

Inside This Issue

**Changes in Staffing at
the Program Office**

**Rule Changes Proposed
for Elections, Equipment
Rebates and the
Cost-Share Process**

**Needs Assessment
Begins this Fall**

**Commission Approves
Changes to DWC-I
Water Impoundment
Reservoir Practice**

**Work Study Project
Completed**

**Majority of Districts
Implement the
Standardized Payroll
Process**

**Special Practices
Unit Analyzes Changes
Needed in Seeding
and Grazing System
Practices**

**MoSWIMS Runs
Smoothly During
First Month of
Deployment**

Commission Approves Reallocation of Unspent FY08 Cost-Share

At the July meeting, the Soil and Water Districts Commission approved the reallocation of unspent fiscal year 2008 cost-share funds. In FY08, \$20,250,000 was appropriated, with \$24,851,847 allocated and \$17,189,779 claimed. This left \$3,060,221 to be reallocated for FY09 cost-share, due to wet weather conditions experienced this past year.

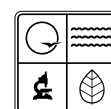
The initial FY09 allocation was based upon the highest amount claimed in FY05-07, with the total allocation being \$22,403,627. With the commission having \$3,060,221 to reallocate to the districts, the commission is now providing \$25,906,546 in total district cost-share allocations. The commission realized that not all districts would be able to use the additional allocation, thus over allocated by roughly \$300,000.

The commission's formula for reallocating the funds is the following:

- For all districts that claimed more in FY08 than their initial FY09 allocation, increase their initial allocation to match the amount claimed in FY08. (21 districts claimed more in FY08.)
- Reallocate funding for the districts that had obligated funding to landowners that were unable to complete the conservation practice. The following formula was used (the amount contained on all applications/amendments cancelled in the months of May and June) minus (the amount contained on new applications approved in the months of May and June) plus (the amount of all applications/amendments rolled over to FY09).
- Ensure that all districts have at least \$30,000 to approve new contracts in FY09.
- Provide districts their additional allocation once 80 percent of the initial FY09 allocation is obligated.

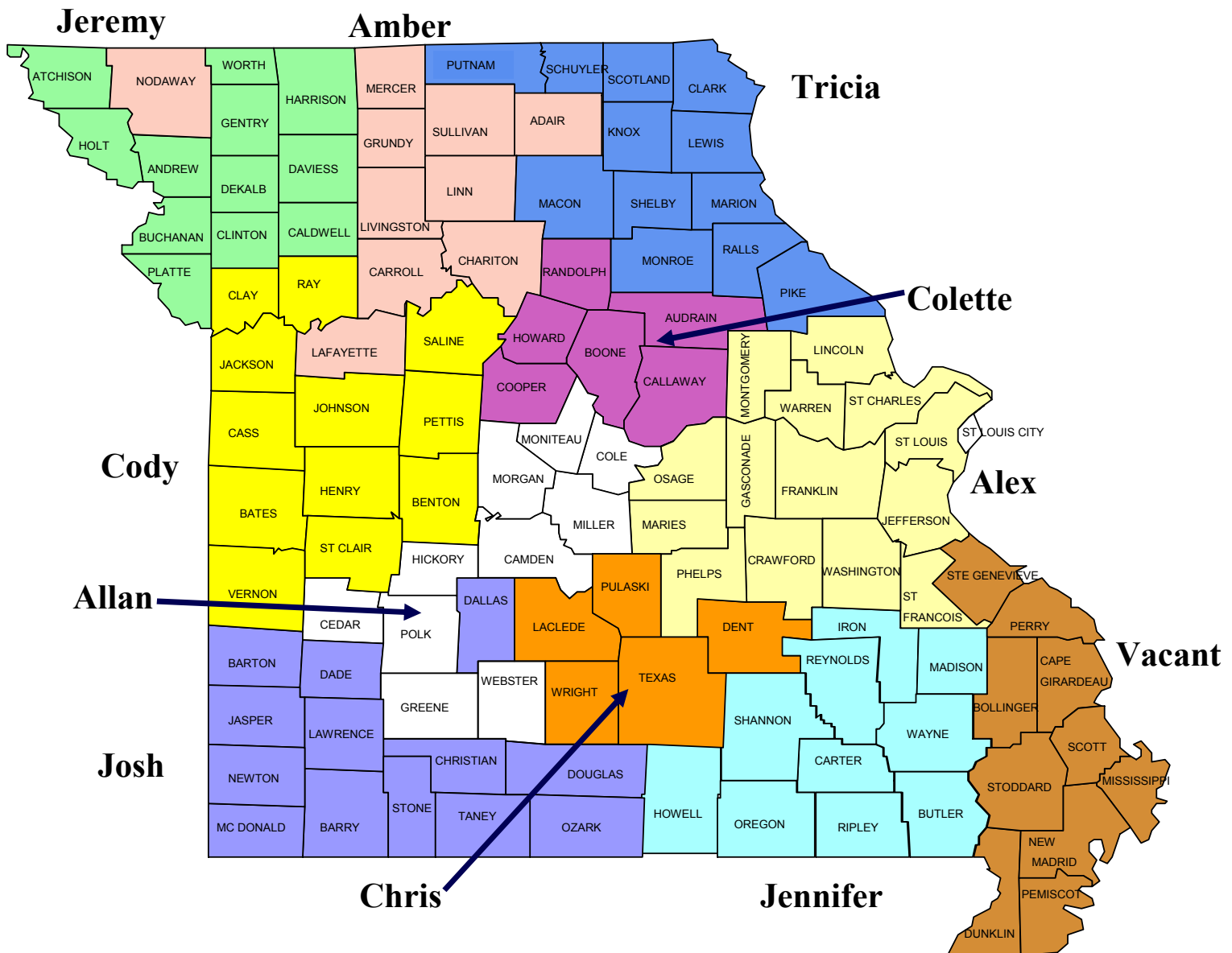
In the past, districts that claimed over 80 percent were allocated more funds, but this year due to the wet weather experienced across the state, the \$3,060,221 has been distributed to counties that had cost-share obligations that were not claimed. Using this formula, there were 101 districts that received an increase in their initial FY09 allocation. The additional wet weather funds that were reallocated will not be used to determine any future cost-share allocations.

Please let Colette Weckenborg and your district coordinator know through e-mail when your district has obligated 80 percent of the initial allocation. At that time, your district's allocation will increase in the MoSWIMS program. If you have any questions, please contact your district coordinator.



Missouri Department
of Natural Resources
Soil and Water Conservation Program

District Support Unit Assignments



Changes in Staffing at the Program Office

A portion of our Soil and Water Conservation Program's mission was to assist the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service in its federal mandate to survey and map the soils of Missouri. This work is complete.

This change enables the department to transfer \$1 million to Missouri landowners for construction of soil and water conservation practices bringing the landowner's share from 59 percent to 62 percent of the sales tax. However, it affects 17 Department of Natural Resources' employees in the program's soil science section.

These employees work across the state in Boonville, Jefferson City, Kansas City, Poplar Bluff, Springfield and Union. The department's Human Resources Program is currently helping these employees in finding new positions

within the department that will benefit from their skills. We will also work with other state agencies, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and our 114 soil and water conservation districts that may possibly offer career opportunities for these employees.

As is customary in other states, NRCS will perform any future interpretations or updates of Missouri's soil maps.

The job duties of the coordinator position have evolved tremendously over the past several months, and along with this, so are the areas that coordinators currently cover. They will have fewer counties so they can provide better service. The program office did not increase any full-time employee positions in order to do this. Instead, the cost-share staff was reassigned to be district coordinators.

Rule Changes Proposed for Elections, Equipment Rebates and the Cost-Share Process

The Soil and Water Conservation Program has been working on updating several of the following rules:

According to RSMo 278.80(2), the Soil and Water Districts Commission has the power to formulate and fix the rules and procedures for a fair and impartial selection of soil and water district supervisors. Due to a request from the commission and suggestions from some districts, the current rules for supervisor elections are being evaluated. The rules on the elections are being reviewed to see if they can be improved upon and to get more representation from agricultural landowners during the election.

At the commission's meeting on July 29, some proposed rule changes were shared with the commissioners to get their comments and see if they have any other suggestions.

Some of the ideas that were shared with the commission include:

- Notify all landowners of assessed agricultural land of the upcoming election and have anyone wishing to run contact the district board.
- Remove any reference to the nominating committee.
- Conduct the election by mail ballot only.
- Mail a numbered ballot to the address on the County Assessor's list.
- Do not hold an election if only one person asks to be placed on the ballot.

The commission had some suggested changes and has some other board election processes to look at. The rules will be reviewed again at a future commission meeting.

If the commission approves the proposed rules, the rules will be filed with the Secretary of State and be available for public comment.

The Equipment Rebate Rule (10CSR 70-9.010) was filed with the Secretary of State's Office for public comment on Aug. 15, 2008. This rule establishes commission guidelines for use and availability of the department's Conservation Equipment Incentive Program which will replace the Loan Interest-Share Program. This rule outlines applicant eligibility, application approval and establishes equipment eligibility. The rule was written to provide a framework for the program to allow for flexibility in procedures while following commission priorities. Eligible producers will receive a rebate payment on new or used eligible equipment purchased from an equipment dealer. The rebate amount will be a percentage of the purchase price as established by the commission.

The program is also working on updates to Cost-Share Rules 10 CSR 70-5.04 and 10 CSR 70-8.04 for procedural changes to allow cost-share payments to be based upon estimated rather than actual costs. Amendments are also being made to 10 CSR 70.4.01 which adds definitions for the Department of Natural Resources, estimated approved costs, and job approval authority, and replaces the Soil Conservation Service with USDA NRCS. Other amendments to the cost-share rules are in development but are on hold until the original rule is approved.

Needs Assessment Begins this Fall

Following RSMo 278 and the commission's rules for allocating cost-share, the commission is charged with allocating appropriations to districts based upon the district's needs. In order to do this, the commission requests that each district perform a five-year needs assessment of their county.

Starting in FY10, the cost-share allocation will be partly distributed based on a needs assessment developed by each district. The needs assessment will be a comprehensive, multi-year report of the cost-share needs in the district based on resource concerns. During this process, the district board will break down the resource needs of the district based on 11 concerns: Sheet and Rill Erosion, Gully Erosion, Grazing Management, Woodland Erosion, Sensitive Areas, Irrigation Management, Animal Waste Management, Nutrient Management, Pest Management, Groundwater Protection and Streambank Erosion.

In order to determine which concerns are necessary and how much money to put into each concern, districts will use a variety of methods. These include using the CARES Web site for Missouri County Profiles which has census information on the total number of farms in the district, total county acres, total public lands acres and other beneficial land references.

Districts should also discuss resource concerns with landowners in the office and in the field. Other methods to gather the necessary information are through landowner surveys, informational meetings and analyzing past cost-share usage.

Once the district has compiled all the information on their resource needs and figured an estimated dollar amount, the district will fill out the Cost-Share Proposed Usage Form, which will include the total goal per resource concern that needs to be addressed, which practices will be utilized to address the resource concern and the dollar amount for

each practice. In addition to this form, the district will submit a vision of the future, an informational statement about their district and how they see land use changing or staying consistent in future years, which could affect the need for cost-share in their district.

The preliminary assessment is due in December and the final copy will be due in February. Initially, districts should focus the majority of their efforts completing years one and two. This information will be reviewed and presented to the commission who will then allocate the available cost-share dollars to districts based on the dollar amounts requested, dollar amounts available and the goals of the commission to treat the varying resource concerns statewide.

While in FY10, the assessment will be only be used as one of the tools to allocate cost-share dollars, it will grow in importance over the years. Currently, districts are allocated funds based on a limited number of soil erosion practices. If AgNPS SALT practices are combined with regular cost-share practices, districts will have a much broader list to choose from and should be able to address more resource concerns. All of this will help with tax renewal efforts in the future by supplying districts with better information to support the renewal as well as inform the taxpayers there is still plenty of work to do.

If you have any questions regarding the needs assessment, please refer to memorandum 2009-004 available at www.dnr.mo.gov/env/swcp/correspondence.htm or contact your district coordinator.

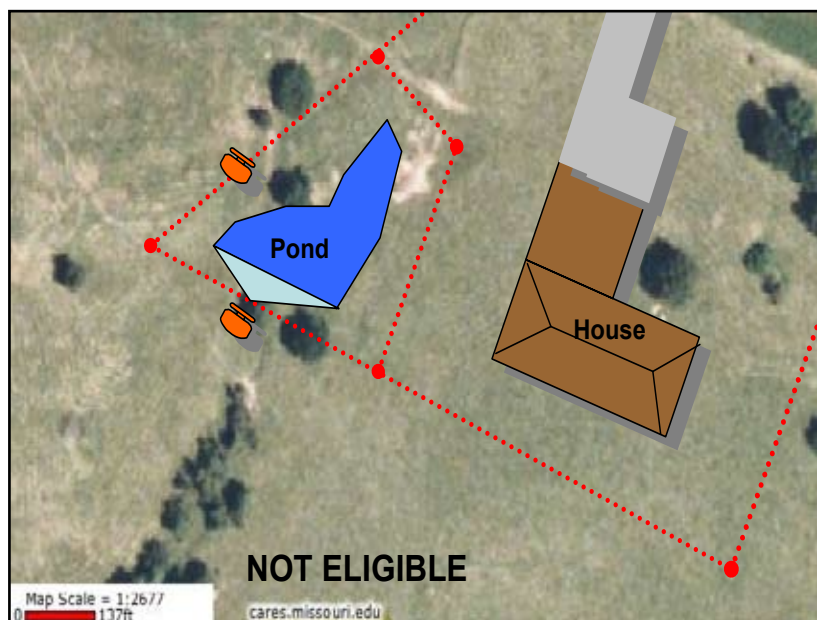
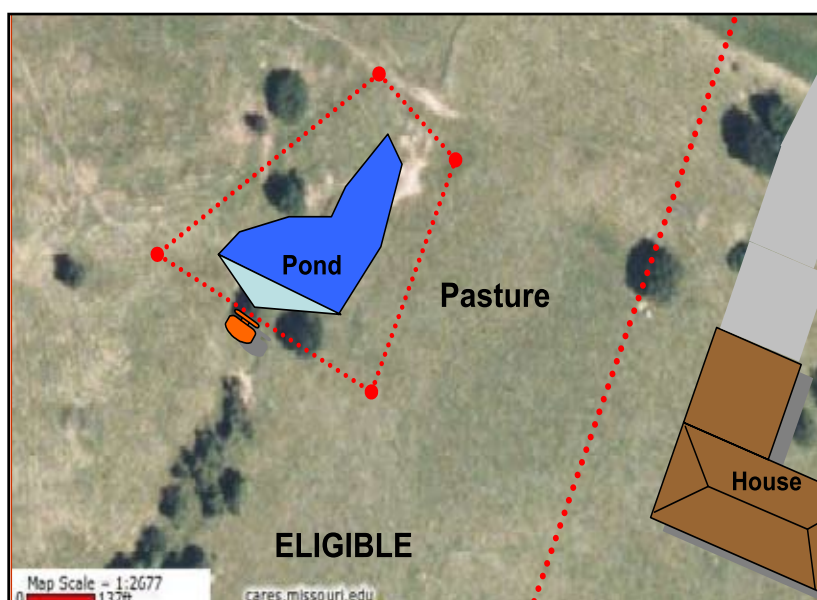
Commission Approves Changes to DWC-I Water Impoundment Reservoir Practice

The commission has approved the following clarifications and changes in policy for the DWC-I Water Impoundment Reservoir practice. These changes will go into effect on Oct. 1, 2008. This policy should help remove the perception that the parks, soils and water tax is being used in some areas to construct recreational ponds and reduce liability associated with larger structures. This practice costs approximately twice as much per ton of soil saved as the next highest regular cost-share practice.

Following are revisions/clarification of policy for this practice:

- Structures with an overall dam height greater than 25 feet and a pool size of 50 acre-feet or greater are not eligible for state cost-share. Information on how to measure a dam can be found at this Web site - www.dnr.mo.gov/env/wrc/damsft/damhgt.htm.
- The reference to silvicultural nonpoint sources of erosion has been removed from the purpose statement. Ponds can no longer be approved for erosion control in dense forest cover, and heavy clearing is not an approved cost-shareable component for this practice.
- Construction of a DWC-I Water Impoundment Reservoir is prohibited when no agricultural activity is taking place immediately adjacent to and surrounding the structure site.

The commission approved these changes so that this practice will address the most significant sources of active erosion in crop fields and pasture.



Work Study Project Completed

Recently a work study was conducted in 22 soil and water conservation district offices in different parts of the state. This work study was done to identify possible inefficiencies in the processes and procedures affecting the soil and water conservation districts and program office. This work study was conducted by an independent consulting company called Business Improvement Solutions. The total project cost for conducting this work study was \$24,475.

The findings of the work study identified things that could be improved upon. The work study only focused on the processes and procedures in place, not on the individuals performing the tasks. Once some of the changes have been fully implemented, another work study may be done at the request of the local board of supervisors.

Majority of Districts Implement the Standardized Payroll Process

Around 98 percent of districts verbally agreed to implement the standardized payroll process that was recently recommended by the Soil and Water Conservation Program office. This switch will save districts time and money, make more efficient use of supervisor's time, stop district employees from having to track down board members to sign checks, reduce audit findings in the future and provide districts with improved accounting support from the department.

No employees have missed a paycheck during this transition period. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the standardized payroll process, please refer to memo 2008-039, available at www.dnr.mo.gov/env/swcp/correspondence.htm.

Special Practices Unit Analyzes Changes Needed in Seeding and Grazing System Practices

The Special Practices Unit will be working to update and revise SWCP policies on seeding and grazing system practices. Once the policies are drafted, the districts will be given the opportunity through meetings or e-mail to discuss the policies and make suggestions for improvement. All comments and suggestions will be considered in the final policy changes. District input will be important so that the



policies will be as landowner friendly as possible while adhering to NRCS standards and specifications for success of the installation and maintenance of the practices. The revisions will focus on the soil savings and water quality impacts that the practices have and the benefits to taxpayers of the state.

MoSWIMS Running Smoothly During First Month of Deployment

The new Missouri Soil and Water Information Management System replaced the DCS program on July 1. The deadline for rollovers was Aug. 1 and most districts have finished. We appreciate how hard districts worked to accomplish this.

Contract approval is going smoothly with over 95 percent of contracts approved within 24 hours of receipt. Around 2,290 contracts have been submitted so far. Of those submitted, 17 percent have been denied, mostly due to administrative errors related to the conversion process. If not corrected, these errors would have ultimately delayed payment to landowners. Please double check TIN numbers, terminations dates, contract maximums and acres served before sending contracts for approval.

The review that is being done is no different from the review that has occurred the past 20 years, other than the timing of the review. Prior to changing the process, the review was done after the landowner completed the practice. The review is now being done on the front end to ensure that commission policies, regulations and statutory requirements are met.

With this new process, districts can expect the landowner to be paid within four days after the contract payment form is received at the program office. With the prior process, the check was sent to the landowner in excess of two weeks after receiving the claim forms and even longer when administrative mistakes were made.

2008 SN State Practice Totals - All

NRODSW-STRUK - nrstruk
FY=2008 AND Type=SN

Practice	Number of Practices	State CS \$	Avg CS per Practice	Avg CS Rate	Total Tons Saved over Life Span	Cost per Ton over Life Span	Avg Tons Saved per Practice	Acres Served	Extent Installed	Unit
901	2	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00	0.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	173.00	173.00	A
C650	2	\$7,846.81	\$3,923.41	0.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.90	1,145.00	F
CP2	1	\$752.00	\$752.00	0.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	21.70	0.00	A
DCSP-01	1	\$4,018.50	\$4,018.50	0.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	80.00	76.70	A
DFR-05	4	\$8,787.78	\$2,196.95	0.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	178.40	9,433.50	A
DSL-01	50	\$111,383.12	\$2,227.66	0.58	51,599.00	2.16	1,031.98	1,312.90	1,294.70	A
DSL-02	38	\$75,825.59	\$1,995.41	0.66	70,678.00	1.07	1,859.95	1,279.10	1,279.10	A
DSL-04	29	\$103,478.55	\$3,568.23	0.64	12,144.00	8.52	418.76	346.60	57,971.00	F
DSL-05	6	\$15,206.84	\$2,534.47	0.65	700.00	21.72	116.67	25.00	4,816.50	F
DSL-11	20	\$47,907.57	\$2,395.38	0.61	4,072.50	11.76	203.63	157.20	7,784.90	A
DSL-111	1	\$1,859.68	\$1,859.68	0.52	1,470.00	1.27	1,470.00	5.00	5.00	A
DSL-15	2	\$1,159.50	\$579.75	1.00	575.70	2.01	287.85	77.30	77.30	A
DSL-44	93	\$637,380.82	\$6,853.56	0.63	71,799.00	8.88	772.03	1,428.80	300,418.00	F
DSP-02	28	\$64,688.09	\$2,310.29	0.62	552.50	117.08	19.73	1,090.30	1,090.21	A
DSP-03	28	\$133,931.74	\$4,783.28	0.59	49,358.50	2.71	1,762.80	2,955.90	8,759.00	A
DSP-33	2	\$6,973.54	\$3,486.77	0.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	33.10	2,208.00	Y
DSP-333	4	\$8,474.85	\$2,118.71	0.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	137.20	163.40	A
DWC-01	86	\$604,124.70	\$7,024.71	0.62	37,070.00	16.30	431.05	140.70	334,408.20	Y
DWP-01	17	\$37,667.07	\$2,215.71	0.65	8,660.00	4.35	509.41	41.60	10,163.40	Y
DWP-03	54	\$150,452.64	\$2,786.16	0.65	13,010.00	11.56	240.93	202.20	16,960.80	A
HCSP-01	3	\$37,649.94	\$12,549.98	0.65	590.00	63.81	196.67	59.00	58.77	A
MDSP-02	1	\$14,577.35	\$14,577.35	0.73	560.00	26.03	560.00	160.00	160.00	A
N312	9	\$165,342.58	\$18,371.40	0.52	3,900.00	42.40	433.33	1,215.80	813.00	E
N351	67	\$29,571.39	\$441.36	0.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	405.60	191.60	E
N380	1	\$13,500.00	\$13,500.00	0.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.80	12,000.00	F
N386	28	\$67,617.60	\$2,414.91	0.92	1,401.00	48.26	50.04	204.00	187.60	A
N391	3	\$12,029.41	\$4,009.80	0.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.60	9.60	A
N393	4	\$7,209.66	\$1,802.42	0.91	33.20	217.16	8.30	16.40	16.10	A

* At least one of claims deriving this total is missing a Life Span, Acres Served, Pre-Erosion or Post-Erosion amount

2008 R State Practice Totals

NRODSW-STRUK - nrstruk
FY=2008 AND Type=R

Project #	Practice	Number of Practices	State CS \$	Avg CS per Practice	Avg CS Rate	Total Tons Saved over Life Span	Cost per Ton over Life Span	Avg Tons Saved per Practice	Acres Served	Extent Installed	Unit
R	DFR-04	3	\$3,195.52	\$1,065.17	0.75	934.00	3.42	311.33	28.10	28.10	A
R	DFR-05	149	\$302,436.49	\$2,029.78	0.61	79,360.00	3.81	532.62	6,673.80	291,354.10	F
R	DSL-01	608	\$1,045,529.02	\$1,719.62	0.59	496,379.55	2.11	816.41	13,138.17	19,755.57	A
R	DSL-02	546	\$844,935.03	\$1,547.50	0.58	423,687.70	1.99	775.98	14,828.00	14,806.40	A
R	DSL-04	169	\$341,501.09	\$2,020.72	0.69	106,836.00	3.20	632.17	2,299.30	373,612.00	F
R	DSL-05	83	\$297,181.25	\$3,580.50	0.66	27,390.00	10.85	330.00	511.50	91,816.50	F
R	DSL-08	1	\$322.88	\$322.88	0.32	140.00	2.31	140.00	11.00	615.00	F
R	DSL-11	51	\$117,842.24	\$2,310.63	0.59	20,471.50	5.76	401.40	178.06	11,537.86	A
R	DSL-111	2	\$3,281.52	\$1,640.76	0.54	210.00	15.63	105.00	6.80	6.80	A
R	DSL-15	5	\$3,000.00	\$600.00	1.00	240.00	12.50	48.00	200.00	200.00	A
R	DSL-44	1008	\$6,667,358.92	\$6,614.44	0.67	808,569.00	8.25	802.15	13,764.80	2,901,436.80	F
R	DSP-02	114	\$173,275.40	\$1,519.96	0.61	12,388.00	13.99	108.67	3,256.90	3,196.50	A
R	DSP-03	221	\$932,871.84	\$4,221.14	0.56	79,053.50	11.80	357.71	23,907.93	32,944.44	A
R	DSP-31	56	\$114,208.48	\$2,039.44	0.65	14,130.00	8.08	252.32	160.20	40,217.40	Y
R	DSP-33	7	\$20,602.30	\$2,943.19	0.67	6,362.00	3.24	908.86	330.80	2,034.90	A
R	DSP-333	25	\$69,171.18	\$2,766.85	0.53	18,200.00	3.80	728.00	2,335.50	2,044.50	A
R	DWC-01	586	\$3,879,126.78	\$6,619.67	0.58	229,510.00	16.90	391.66	1,851.30	2,477,301.50	Y
R	DWP-01	714	\$1,622,190.41	\$2,271.98	0.47	197,451.00	8.22	276.54	2,061.20	556,701.80	Y
R	DWP-03	282	\$751,748.83	\$2,665.78	0.63	99,070.00	7.59	351.31	932.84	103,895.93	A
R	Totals	4630	\$17,189,779.18	\$3,712.70	0.60	2,620,382.25	6.56	565.96	86,476.20		

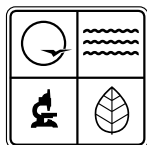


SOIL AND WATER *Resources*

This publication is produced bi-monthly by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Soil and Water Conservation Program. Funds for this publication are provided by Missouri's parks, soils and water sales tax.

Editor: Jessica Royston

As a recipient of federal funds, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources cannot discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex or handicap. If anyone believes they have been subject to discrimination for any of these reasons, they may file a complaint with either the Department of Natural Resources or the Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.



Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Soil and Water Conservation Program
P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176

First Class
U.S. Postage
PAID
Jefferson City, MO
65102-0176
Permit No. 440